Policy, Planning, and Budget Council Meeting Minutes  
College of Science and Engineering  
30 April 2020

Zoom Meeting Interface

Present: John Gilbertson (chair), Andy Klein (minutes), Takele Seda, Arpad Benyi, Jim Hearne, Thanh Le, Dietmar Schwartz, David Rider, Brady Foreman, Elias Bashir (Student Senator), Jackie Caplan-Auerbach (Associate Dean of CSE), Brad Johnson (Dean of CSE)

Minutes from 04/16/2020 were approved.

Dean Johnson encouraged the Council to revisit the discussion from the last meeting surrounding the MOU and potential changes to the COPEP. Doesn’t talk about how the extra year impacts the review of teaching, research, service. Johnson distributed some proposed language to include in the COPEP, and the Council conducted a group editing session of the proposed language.

Johnson provided an update on the university-level decision package evaluation process. UPRC met twice because not enough people responded the surveys on first try. Administration met as well. Chosen proposals do not include any CSE decision packages, instead focus more on institution-wide decision packages. One decision package, an infrastructure program for graduate programs, garnered significant support. Johnson mentioned that there is not a lot of support for growing programs right now, though there may be support for adding self-sustaining, mostly online Master’s programs.

Johnson said enrollment was down 2% this spring compared to last spring, most of which consisted of non-resident domestic students who contribute more tuition dollars. Still don’t have a clear picture of fall enrollment numbers, though it seems clear tuition revenue will be down. Can also count on a cut in State funds. Several ways that we can mitigate this: tapping reserve funds, cuts and money saving (hiring freeze, travel ban, more to come), $11.6M from CARES (half of which goes to students), other federal bailout money. Johnson mentioned that we can expect a reduction in capital projects, particularly smaller capital projects, and ISB is not expected to be impacted since that money has already been committed. No mention of EE/CS building.

ICS has convened a planning group to plan out and make a decision on fall course delivery. As of now, it is envisioned that it will be a hybrid quarter: partly online with some on-campus activities (e.g., wet labs). This follows the epidemiological notion that decreasing gathering sizes reduces risk of a local outbreak. Some ideas being thrown around: don’t bring all students back, just bring back smaller groups periodically, etc. Planning group is trying their best to make a decision before the extended registration deadline of May 19, though not clear they’ll meet this deadline.
The Council focused a bit on the impacts to CSE, but acknowledged that this is impacting other colleges very significantly, and we should be sensitive to that.

The Council discussed whether there are faculty who do not feel comfortable returning to campus, and what happens. Johnson indicated that, yes, there are faculty in this situation, and ACC and others are focused on addressing this issue. ACC is also grappling with modalities, and how to categorize courses with hybrid modalities. Currently, courses are either fully in-person, or fully online.

Sabbaticals for next year will not be “taken back”, though faculty will need to make a choice to either adapt their plans or cancel their sabbatical plans. If they cancel, those quarters of leave will be credited back, and faculty may apply for them in a future year.